

O 090312Z NOV 08  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 4009

UNCLAS STATE 119378

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [CASC](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [XL](#)  
SUBJECT: MGHH02: Hurricane Paloma Monitoring Group  
Situation Report No. 1

CAYMAN ISLANDS AVOID MAJOR DAMAGE, NOW IN RECOVERY PHASE  
-----

[¶1.](#) (SBU) The storm hit the Cayman Islands November 7; there are no reports of serious damage. The airport is open and power has been restored to most of Grand Cayman. (MG/Embassy Kingston telcon)

HURRICANE PALOMA STRIKES CUBA AS CATEGORY 4  
-----

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Media report the hurricane made landfall on Cuba's southeast coast and weakened to a Category 3. The National Hurricane Center expects it will emerge as a tropical storm over the Atlantic in 24 hours. Forecasts call for five to 20 inches of rain over central Cuba. (MG/National Hurricane Center telcon, AP)

[¶3.](#) (SBU) The Cuban government evacuated approximately 100,000 people from low-lying areas and suspended all vehicular, rail, and air traffic in central Cuba. Airports in western Cuba, including Havana, are fully operational. (MG/USINT Havana telcon)

[¶4.](#) (SBU) No U.S. citizens have requested assistance. (MG/USINT Havana telcon)

THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT MONITORING STORM  
-----

[¶5.](#) (SBU) Embassy Nassau expects Paloma to strike the central Bahamas November 9. (MG/Embassy Nassau telcon)

[¶6.](#) (U) Minimize considered.  
RICE